

B. Claims

Please amend claim 1 and add new claim 14 as follows. A complete listing of all the claims appears below; this listing replaces all earlier amendments and listings of the claims.

1. (Currently Amended) A printing apparatus that prints by scanning a print head, ~~which has a first nozzle array for ink of a first color and a second nozzle array for ink of a second color different from the first color,~~ with regard to a printing medium, said print head having ink of a plurality of colors and said apparatus comprising:

a print buffer for ~~dividing storage area~~ being divided into a plurality of first regions ~~[[in]]~~ corresponding with a scan direction of the print head, each first region being divided into a plurality of second regions ~~in correspondence~~ corresponding with color ~~component;~~

input means for sequentially inputting a plurality of block data corresponding to a first region, wherein the block data contains ~~first color component~~ data corresponding to ~~the first color and/or second color component data corresponding to the second color~~ and a color change code representing a color changing of data ~~an end of the first color component data and the second color component data respectively,~~ and wherein ~~each color component~~ the data has contains compressed data;

acquisition means for reading block data from the input means and for acquiring data from the block data by decompressing the compressed data ~~in each color component and for determining the code;~~ and

storage control means for assigning block data to the first regions of the print buffer and for storing the data acquired by the acquisition means in second regions of

the first regions and changing the second regions to storing on the basis of the color change code ~~determined by said acquisition means~~.

2. – 10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the data acquired by the acquisition means is column data.

12. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said acquisition means has decompression means for decompressing the color component data into raster data.

13. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said acquisition means has conversion means for converting the raster data into the column data.

14. (New) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a data amount corresponding to the block data is smaller than a data amount necessary for printing by scanning the print head once with regard to the printing medium.